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ABSTRACT

A family counselor and mother of adopted children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects (FAS/E) offers practical advice and information on dealing with FAS/E's lifelong effects on behavior and learning. The book begins by discussing the historical, medical, and social aspects of FAS/E, and details common behavioral characteristics associated with the condition. Characteristics described include: academic problems, attention deficit disorders, speech/language disorders, information processing deficits, patterning problems, poor impulse controls, inability to relate behavior to consequences, poor short-term memory, inconsistent knowledge base, poor personal boundaries, confusion under pressure, difficulty grasping abstract concepts, inability to manage anger, and poor judgment. The guide is then divided by the developmental stages of life: infancy and toddlerhood, early childhood, middle childhood, late childhood, early adolescence, and late adolescence. The different challenges and obstacles presented by the symptoms of FAS/E in each life stage are described, followed by suggestions to overcome them and to help the family, the teacher, and the child create effective changes in the child's behavior. Case studies are used to clarify psychological concepts and to personalize FAS/E for the novice. Contains a list of resource organizations, books, and relevant Internet sites (Individual chapters include references.) (CR)

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